Approved For Release 2009/09/21 : CIA-RDP81-01035R000100030034-2

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Poland

DATE DISTR. 3 February 1948

SUBJECT

Political Situation as of 15 Nov 47

NO. OF PAGES

5X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO OF ENCLS.

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25X1

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The PSL

1. The population has no illusions that the newly formed 'United Peasant Party' is completely commated by the regime. It would, however, be false to think that the regime is anxious to allow the PSL in its prepent form to live; it can be taken for granted that this 'United Peasant Party' will disappear in the near future. The installand by the FPR in rural areas is being reinforced.

Relations Botween Church and State

- 2. The pastorel letter -- in which the Church criticises sharply the policy of the state in connection with 'the Hitlerite methods of educating the young in schools' the suppression and chicanery toward the Catholic prose, and the promotion of different sects -- was sent to parish priests by special messengers one day before the letter was to be read in churches. The US was able to catch one of those letters the same evening. Ismediately great pressure was used to prevent the priests from reading the letter to the parishicners. This method gave no results, so priests were investigated in connection with their personal lives and their attitudes toward the opinions expressed in the letter.
- 3. "The authorities refused the use of halls and buildings for the celebration of the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday in Cotobor. In Entouice the hall hired for this celebration was refused the night before it was to take place. In spite of this, the celebration took place in the churches. The Sishop stated in his sermon there was no room for Christ in public places now, and this statement was received with great satisfaction by the public because of the Bishoph courage.
- 4. "Favorition toward non-Catholic sects, such as Septists and Methodists, is on the increase. These sects possess considerable funds, which they receive largely from America. Proselyting is done by paying up to 50 thousand slotys per head for joining the sect. In Marsaw, where there is a great lack of housing, dwellings built by these sects are given out to new members.

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Terrorism

- 5. "A new wave of arrests and imprisonments have swept Poland from east to west. The majority of these arrested are members of independent movements; ex-underground workers under the German occupation, and under the present regime. Members of MIN /molnosc i Niepodleglosc -- Freedom and Independence/ are treated most inhumaply of all. This organization must be wiped out completely, according to the regime. Among members of the AK /Armya Krajowa -- the Country's Army/ not only those who had not revealed themselves have been arrested, but also many who came out during the amnesty, especially those who held important positions.
- 6. "A new provocation by the regime came to light in connection with the attack on a train in Nowy Targ. This train was stopped during the night by fake partisans, who invaded the cars and opened fire, killing and wounding a substantial number of passengers. It is a fact that the attackers were UB employees who staged this affair to create hatred against the partisans among the population.

Activity of the Underground

7. "In spite of the efforts of the regime during the Trakow trials against WIN, the public regarded the trials as a political fight and not an act of justice. The reaction was favorable toward MIN. Its leadership used this friendly atmosphere to send out its appraisal of the present situation and give instructions for the future. The instructions were widely distributed among the public; from the point of view of the security of the movement, this action must be considered as unwise. The UB has since doubled its efforts against the members of WIN.

The Economic Situation

- 8. "There is a great lack of potatoes in cities because potatoes were not delivered from the rural areas. The activity of the so-called 'supply fund' created a complete lack of fats and the prices rose abruptly to new heights; a kg of butter costs 600-800 slotys. The fund started buying up fats at prices often much higher than those officially set. These fats were supposed to be used for the working population in the cities. No distribution has as yet taken place, however. There is suspicion that because of the Soviet policy to fashion Germany, the fats were sent to the Soviet Zone, as had happened with potatoes. The supply of grain from Russia has the aspect of a perfidious propaganda action: transports are received with orchestras and ceremony; then the grain goes to the mills, and the flour goes to Soviet warehouses in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
- 9. "New licensing of private enterprises, costing 9% of the June turnover, has been felt acutely. There is also a lack of personnel for private undertakings, as assignment of such has been stopped. Only in one aspect have things eased up a bit: the reconstruction of warsaw. This activity has turned for the better because private intiative has been admitted to this work."

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